

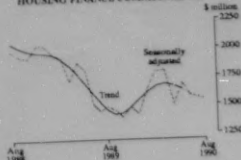
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 25 October 1990

The week in statistics ...

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HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS



Housing finance down again

Seasonally adjusted figures for housing finance commitments decreased in August 1990 for the third month in a row. Commitments were down \$17.7 million (1.1%) in August 1990 to \$1,545.7 million but were still \$56.4 million (3.8%) higher than August 1989.

The decline in August compared with July was not common across all housing purposes. As the table below shows, purchases of newly erected dwellings were up \$13.5 million (14.7%) but this was offset by the decrease in construction of dwellings, down \$3.8 million (1.4%) and the decrease in the purchase of established dwellings, down \$27.4 million (2.3%).

Banks showed an increase in seasonally adjusted commitments for August of \$3.1 million (0.3%) while permanent building societies were down \$3.1 million (1.6%) and 'other' lenders down \$17.8 million (9.5%).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, AUGUST 1990
Seasonally adjusted

Purpose of commitments	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Construction of dwellings	272.2	-1.4	-3.0
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	105.6	14.7	44.5
Purchase of established dwellings	1,167.9	-2.3	2.8
Total	1,545.7	-1.1	3.8

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance For Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), or contact Derek Pike on (06) 252 7129.

Victorians lead way in national road safety improvement

A dramatic decline in the number of road accident fatalities in Victoria is emerging as a key factor in an improved national road safety record.

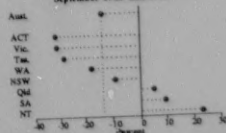
In the nine months to September 1990, 422 people have been killed in accidents on Victoria's roads, 68 per cent of the 617 deaths recorded in the same period last year.

With only Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory recording increases over the same nine month period, the national road toll at the end of September stood at 1,767, down 277 or 14 per cent on the 1989 progressive figure.

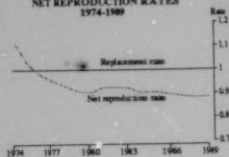
In the month of September, 228 deaths were recorded on Australian roads. Although this was a rise of nearly 20 per cent over August, it was the second lowest September figure since the series began in 1970.

For further information, order the publication *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Australia* (9401.0), or contact Andy Harris on (06) 252 5443.

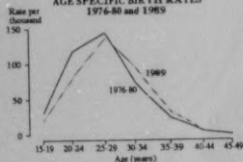
PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS
Change between the nine months ended
September 1989 and 1990



NET REPRODUCTION RATES
1974-1989



AGE SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES
1976-80 and 1989



Childbirth trends continue in 1989

There was a 2 per cent increase in births in 1989 (250,853) compared with 1988 (246,193), a rise more indicative of an increase in the number of women of child bearing age than any significant increase in the fertility rate.

In 1989 the crude birth rate remained at 14.9 per thousand population, the same as 1988, while the net reproduction rate remained at about 11 per cent below the long term replacement level.

The trend of mothers having children at older ages continued in 1989. Fertility of women aged 30 years and over accounted for 36 per cent of births in 1989 compared with 23 per cent in the late 1970s. By contrast, women aged under 25 accounted for 40 per cent of births in the late 1970s but only 26 per cent in 1989.

Women aged over 30 years accounted for 27 per cent of first births to the current marriage in 1989 compared with an average of 13 per cent in the period 1976-1980.

The number of ex-nuptial births (births to unmarried women) increased in 1989, continuing the long term trend. There were 50,788 births to unmarried women recorded in 1989, representing 20 per cent of all births compared with 10 per cent in 1977. The proportion of ex-nuptial births where the father is acknowledged has increased from 48 per cent of all ex-nuptial births in 1977 to 76 per cent in 1989.

Among other interesting aspects of 1989 births, 8 per cent of married confinements were to mothers who already had three or more children, the same as 1977, while 1.3 per cent of all confinements resulted in multiple births (twins, triplets, etc) compared with 0.9 per cent in 1977.

For further information, order the publication *Births Australia* (3301.0), or contact Michael Nunn on (06) 252 6755.

New country classification to meet Australian needs

A new standard classification was released last week to assist all those who produce or use demographic, social or labour statistics classified by country. The *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics* (ASCCSS) was developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as a national standard in consultation with major interested parties.

The ASCSS has been produced in line with the ABS commitment to promote standard classifications and definitions to help ensure the compatibility and comparability of data from different systems. It classifies countries into successively broader groups on the basis of social, cultural, economic and political criteria. The resulting aggregations were specifically designed to meet the needs of Australian users.

It is intended to be used, for instance, to classify overseas visitors by country of residence, new settlers by country of origin, or the existing population by country of birth. The resulting statistics are used for various applications such as policy making, program monitoring and market research.

Continued ...

The new country classification is being implemented in a number of ABS collections (the 1991 Population Census, the Labour Force Survey and Demography collections) and will be progressively implemented in ABS social surveys. It will be used by other Commonwealth Departments, such as the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, and its use by private organisations is strongly recommended.

An important feature of the ASCSS is that it includes countries formerly classified to Western Asia as part of the Middle East and North Africa. This is consistent with recommendations made by the Committee to Advise on Australia's Immigration Policy.

For further information, order the publication *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics* (1269.0), or contact David Hunter on (06) 252 5736. ASCSS is also available on floppy disk (1270.0).

New service industries statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released more publications in the series flowing from the 1987-88 Service Industries Survey. The latest publications contain statistics for the pest control services industry, the cleaning services industry and the security/protection and other business services industries. Some of the main points are shown below.

Pest control services — industrial and domestic

- ☐ estimated to comprise about 560 enterprises, employing 2,900 people and generating turnover of \$135 million;
- ☐ 14 per cent of staff work part-time;
- ☐ average turnover per working person of about \$45,000.

Cleaning services — commercial, industrial and domestic, including carpet cleaning

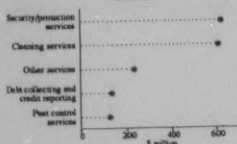
- ☐ estimated to comprise over 4,100 enterprises, employing over 44,000 people and generating turnover of \$622 million;
- ☐ 78 per cent of the staff work part-time;
- ☐ average turnover per working person of about \$14,000.

Security/protection and other business services

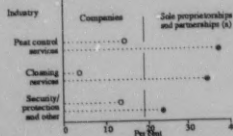
- ☐ mainly security/protection services (64% of these industries turnover) and debt collection/credit reporting services (14% of these industries turnover);
- ☐ estimated to comprise about 1,320 enterprises, employing over 28,000 people and generating turnover of about \$980 million;
- ☐ 35 per cent of the staff work part-time;
- ☐ average turnover per working person of about \$34,400.

The survey results for these industries are found in the publications *Pest Control Services Industry, Australia* (8671.0), *Cleaning Services Industry, Australia* (8672.0) and *Security/Protection and Other Business Services Industries, Australia* (8673.0). More detailed statistics will be released later this year. To be advised when this information becomes available contact Peter White on (06) 257 5633.

TURNOVER FROM PROVISION OF SERVICES
1987-88



NET OPERATING SURPLUS AS A PERCENTAGE
OF TURNOVER, 1987-88



(a) Figures are higher as proprietors share the net operating surplus rather than receive a salary.

In brief ...

Extracts from recent releases.

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, 1988-89

State	\$
ACT	587.13
Vic.	534.36
NT	529.19
NSW	522.80
WA	512.05
SA	448.13
Qld	444.08
Tas.	424.92
Australia	502.71

Household expenditure

In 1988-89, average weekly household expenditure on commodities and services in Australia was \$502.71. The highest average weekly expenditure was recorded at \$587.13 for households in the Australian Capital Territory. Households in Tasmania had the lowest average weekly expenditure at \$424.92 (see table).

These differences in household expenditure reflect to some extent the differences in average weekly household income across the States and Territories. Households in the Australian Capital Territory had the highest average weekly income at \$811.85. Tasmanian households had the lowest average weekly income at \$541.32.

In 1988-89, households in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory had comparatively high weekly housing costs, with averages of \$100.16 and \$86.30 respectively. Housing costs were lowest for households in Tasmania at \$53.79 per week.

Source: 1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, States and Territories (6533.0).

Personal finance

At the end of August 1990, credit limits totalling \$27,190.5 million were available to individuals under revolving credit facilities of which \$12,098.5 million (44.5%) was used.

Revolving credit includes credit card facilities, personal lines of credit and personal overdrafts. It does not include credit card facilities that require settlement of the total amounts outstanding on the presentation of an account.

Source: Personal Finance, Australia, August 1990 (5642.0).

Lease finance

The value of new and used cars and station wagons under finance lease agreements in August 1990 was \$189.3 million, the lowest level since February 1990.

Source: Lease Finance, Australia, August 1990 (5644.0).

Socio-economic indexes

The Population Census provides information, on a five yearly basis, on a broad range of social and economic aspects of the Australian population. Over thirty questions of social and economic interest are asked in the Census. Those people using census data are often interested not just in these items taken one at a time, but in an overview or summary of a number of related items. Statistical techniques can be used to provide such summaries and the publication *Socio-economic Indexes for Areas* (1356.0) describes five summary measures, or indexes, derived from the 1986 Population Census to measure different aspects of socio-economic conditions by geographic areas.

Source: *Socio-economic Indexes for Areas* (1356.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6101

Statistics Weekly
25 October 1990

All the week's releases: 17 to 23 October

General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., October 1990 (1304.0; \$17.50)

Statistics Weekly, 18 October 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)

Information Paper: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, 1986 (1356.0; \$15.00) — *new issue*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, Aust., 1990 (1355.0; \$2,000.00)

— *new issue, on floppy disk with software package and documentation.*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, NSW, 1990 (1355.1; \$1,200.00)

— *new issue, on floppy disk with software package and documentation.*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, Vic., 1990 (1355.2; \$1,200.00)

— *new issue, on floppy disk with software package and documentation.*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, Qld, 1990 (1355.3; \$1,150.00)

— *new issue, on floppy disk with software package and documentation.*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, WA, 1990 (1355.5; \$1,100.00)

— *new issue, on floppy disk with software package and documentation.*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, SA, 1990 (1355.4; \$1,100.00)

— *new issue, on floppy disk with software package and documentation.*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, Tas., 1990 (1355.6; \$1,050.00)

— *new issue, on floppy disk with software package and documentation.*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, NT, 1990 (1355.7; \$1,050.00)

— *new issue, on floppy disk with software package and documentation.*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, ACT, 1990 (1355.8; \$1,050.00)

— *new issue, on floppy disk with software package and documentation.*

Economic Indicators, Qld, October 1990 (1307.3; \$5.00)

Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, October 1990 (1303.6; \$8.00)

Tasmania at a Glance, 1990 (1305.6; free)

Territory Business Indicators, October 1990 (1307.7; \$3.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., August 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)

Personal Finance, Aust., August 1990 (5642.0; \$5.00)

Lease Finance, Aust., August 1990 (5644.0; \$5.00)

Labour statistics and prices

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Aust., June 1990 (6224.0; \$8.00)

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., September 1990 (6410.0; \$3.50)

Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, August 1990 (7204.3; \$3.30)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Clothing and Footwear, Aust., July 1990 (8358.0; \$8.50)

Production of Building Materials and Fittings, Aust., July 1990 (8361.0; \$5.50)

Production of Transport Equipment, Aust., August 1990 (8363.0; \$3.50)

Production of Metal Products, Aust., August 1990 (8367.0; \$4.50)

Production of Energy Products, Aust., August 1990 (8368.0; \$3.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, April to June 1990 (8741.1; \$8.10)

Building Approvals, Qld, August 1990 (8731.3; \$8.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, July 1990 (8741.3; \$5.00)

Building Activity, SA, June Qtr 1990 (8752.4; \$8.00)

Transport

Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., September 1990 (9401.0; \$4.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 6 November 1990

October

- 25** Export Price Index, Australia, August 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
- 26** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, August 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
- 29** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, August 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)
Production Statistics, Australia, September 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, September 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
- 30** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, August 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, August 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)
Building Approvals, Australia, September 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)

November

- 2** Balance of Payments, Australia, September 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)

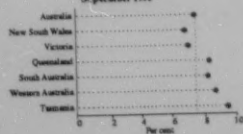
The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
23 October 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (March qtr 90)*	10.1	-13.5	5.6	17.7	-5.3	-35.2	n.a.	n.a.	-2.4
Retail turnover (August 90) (trend estimate)	6.0	0.3	4.5	5.2	5.1	7.6	n.a.	9.7	4.5
New motor vehicle registrations (August 90)†	-10.2	-12.9	1.0	-3.4	-8.2	13.3	2.8	-16.8	-8.0
Number of dwelling unit approvals (August 90)	-14.2	-28.7	-3.7	-1.6	-22.3	-11.3	-32.5	33.9	-14.4
Value of total building work done (June qtr 90)	2.0	-5.4	-26.3	4.0	-15.9	-15.5	-6.0	-7.7	-7.5
Employed persons (September 90)*	0.9	-0.3	2.9	-0.5	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.5	0.9
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 90)	8.1	7.8	6.6	6.7	8.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 90)	7.3	7.1	5.6	6.9	4.6	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.6
Population (March 90)	0.8	1.3	2.8	1.0	2.6	1.0	-0.1	2.0	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (March qtr 90)	3.7	1.1	3.8	6.9	-1.3	2.3	-1.2	-7.0	2.6

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
September 1990



Key national indicators – consolidated to 23 October 1990

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 90	91,183	93,879	0.4	5.6
	— 1984-85 prices			62,511	64,562	-0.9	1.0
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 90	6,990	6,657	-5.3	-9.3
	— 1984-85 prices			5,288	5,030	-4.6	-12.7
Expected new capital expenditure		-	Six months to Dec. 90	14,807	n.a.	n.a.	-1.6
Retail turnover	— current prices	-	August 90	6,986	7,180	2.5	6.0
	— 1984-85 prices	-	June qtr 90	14,300	14,796	-0.3	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	August 90	50,111	46,430	-8.0	-14.7
Dwelling unit approvals		-	August 90	11,417	10,933	4.6	-10.6
Value of all building approvals		\$m	August 90	2,036	1,840	6.8	-9.7
Value of total building work done	— current prices	-	June qtr 90	7,064	7,077	-6.9	-7.5
	— 1984-85 prices	-	June qtr 90	4,484	4,493	-7.6	-12.8
Manufacturers' sales		-	June qtr 90	35,329	35,201	-3.0	2.3
Expected manufacturers' sales		-	Six months to Dec. 90	75,399	n.a.	n.a.	4.6
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	September 90	7,925.5	7,878.9	-0.2	0.9
Unemployment rate †		%	-	7.3	7.4	0.1	1.3
Participation rate †		%	-	64.2	63.9	-0.1	0.4
Job vacancies		'000	August 90	48.1	49.6	-1.3	-25.3
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	-	1.2	1.3	-6.5	-17.6
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	June qtr 90	207.4	n.a.	1.6	7.7	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	July 90	116.4	n.a.	-0.2	-3.1	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	July 90	108.6	n.a.	0.3	4.1	
Company profits before income tax		\$m	June qtr 90	3,356	3,634	-10.9	-25.3
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	May 90	534.10	n.a.	1.8	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †		% per annum	August 90	13.75	n.a.	-1.0	-4.2
10-year Treasury bonds †				13.50	n.a.	0.4	0.6
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	August 90	4,206	4,130	-3.1	4.6
Imports of merchandise		-	-	4,565	4,175	-	11.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		-	-	-359	-45	n.a.	94.1
Balance of goods and services (c)		-	-	-781	-412	-62.2	62.6
Balance on current account (c)		-	-	-1,811	-1,497	-17.4	28.4
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 90	n.a.	104.9	1.7	-4.3	-
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 June 90	124,528	n.a.	-0.3	13.3
Net foreign liabilities				161,820	n.a.	0.2	11.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$US	per \$A	August 90	0.8088	n.a.	2.0	6.1	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	-	61.4	n.a.	0.5	3.7	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qr)	million	Mar. 90	17.0	n.a.	0.4	1.5	
Overseas visitors	'000	June 90	157	201	5.6	11.0	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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